Argumentative Writing Rubric

Category	Above standard	Meets standard	<u>Approaching</u>	Below standard
			<u>standard</u>	
Thesis statement	Thesis statement	Thesis statement	Thesis statement	There is no thesis
	provides a clear,	provides a clear	is present, but	statement
	strong statement	statement of the	does not make the	
	of the author's	author's position	author's position	
	position on the	on the topic	clear	
	topic			
Support for	Includes at least	Includes at least	Includes at least	Includes one or no
position	three pieces of	three pieces of	two pieces of	pieces of evidence
	evidence	evidence	evidence	(examples,
	(examples,	(examples,	(examples,	statistics,
	statistics,	statistics,	statistics,	anecdotes, textual
	anecdotes, textual	anecdotes, textual	anecdotes, textual	evidence) that
	evidence) that	evidence) that	evidence) that	may or may not
	clearly and	support the thesis	attempt to	support the thesis
	strongly support	statement	support the thesis	statement
	the thesis		statement	
	statement			
Transitions	A variety of	Transitions show	Some transitions	The transitions
	thoughtful	how ideas are	show how ideas	between ideas are
	transitions are	connected, but	are connected, but	unclear or non-
	used to show how	there is little	some connections	existent
	ideas are	variety	between ideas are	
	connected		unclear	
Closing Paragraph	The conclusion is	The conclusion	The conclusion	There is no
	strong and leaves	leaves the reader	attempts to leave	conclusion or it
	the reader solidly	with an	the reader with an	does not leave the
	understanding the	understanding of	understanding of	reader with any
	author's position	the author's	the author's	clear
	and the main	position and the	position and the	understandings of
	points of the essay	main points of the	main points of the	the writer's
		essay	essay, but these	position or the
			are not clear	main points